

### REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 20-25 are in this application. In the Office Action claims 2, 5, 6 and 20-25 were rejected as being indefinite, claims 1 and 3 were rejected as being anticipated by Shannon, et al., U.S. 5,885,731, claims 2, 4 and 20-22 were rejected as being obvious over Shannon, et al. in view of EP 583021 A. Claim 7 was objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and claims 5, 6 and 23-25 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 112 rejections and to include all the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Claims 2, 5, 20 and 23 have been amended to overcome the indefiniteness rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 3, and claim 20 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 21. It is respectfully submitted that Shannon, et al. does not teach the step of heating the plate lugs of the battery plates with a heating station before insertion into molten plate straps. Moreover, this step is not taught by EP 583021 A. Accordingly, claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by Shannon, et al. and claim 20, as amended, is not obvious over Shannon, et al. in view of EP 583021 A. Claims 2 and 4 depend from claim 1 and claim 22 depend from claim 20. Accordingly, claims 2, 4 and 22 are allowable also.

Claims 5, 7, 23 and 25 have been amended to place them in independent form and, thus, are now in position for allowance also. Claim 6 is dependent from claim 5 and claim 24 is dependent from claim 23 so claims 6 and 24 are now allowable also.



For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that claims 1, 2, 4-7, 20 and 22-25 are now all distinguishable over the prior art and it is requested that they be allowed and the application pass to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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Charles D. McClung

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